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MAC Newsletter (Vol. 39, No. 3)

Midwest Archives Conference

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Did You Renew Your MAC Membership?

Don't forget to renew your MAC membership in order to keep receiving MAC publications and meeting discounts. Only individual voting members whose renewals are postmarked or submitted on-line by January 31 will be able to vote in the MAC spring election. If you misplaced your renewal form, visit the MAC Web page at <http://www.midwestarchives.org/renewal>.

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Grand Rapids: A City of Reinvention

By Richard H. Harms, Calvin College, and Portia Vescio, Michigan State University

The Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) for the Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, has been busily planning ways to celebrate MAC's 40th anniversary in the spring. When we meet on April 19–21, 2012, at the Amway Grand Plaza hotel located in downtown Grand Rapids, be prepared to look back into MAC's history and forward to the future of the profession. This duality is reflected in the Conference theme of "MAC at 40: The Future is Now."

Just as the digital age has forced archivists to reinvent old processes, so has Grand Rapids had a history of reinventing itself with the times. Foremost in Grand Rapids' history are the mile-long rapids on the Grand River, Michigan's longest river, called by the native Ottawa "Owashtanong," or "Large Water." For the native people, the relatively flat terrain

west of the rapids was ideally suited for habitation—the nearby forest provided game and food, while the rapids made catching the river's giant sturgeon easier. Today, people can watch the fish during their fall/spring migration at the fish ladder on the west bank of the river, a half-mile walk from the conference hotel.

Grand Rapids was named by Louis Campau, the first European settler and scion of a French fur-trading family based in Detroit. When settlers, investors, and speculators from New England and New York came to the area during the 1830s, they saw the rapids as a potential power source for industry. Eventually, they transformed the extensive hardwood forest into saw mills, flour mills, forges, and foundries.

In 1850, Grand Rapids was known popularly as "Valley City," with a variety of industries serving the surrounding agricultural community. One of the city's early industrial successes resulted from the discovery of gypsum near the river. Initially sold as "land plaster" to fertilize soil, by 1880, manufacturers were

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Seen here in 1945, the Civic Auditorium, a neoclassical building completed in 1932, was constructed on the east shore of the Grand River in downtown Grand Rapids. Courtesy of the Grand Rapids Public Library.

President's Page

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University Library
University Archives
Archives Research Center
1707 South Orchard Street
Urbana, IL 61801



January 2012

Dear MACers

It is hard to believe that the fall season is over, the holidays have come and gone, and we now are embarking on 2012! Each year, fall seems to be busier. Certainly, this past year was no exception, and I want to share some of the highlights since my last letter.

The Sioux City Fall Symposium, "Mysteries of Magnetic Tape Revealed," was a great success! A big thank-you goes to Organizing Committee Coordinators David McCartney, Paul Eisloeffel, and Lisa Carter, and Committee members Michele Christian and Grace Linden. George Blood and Elizabeth Clemens shared informative presentations to over 50 attendees, who all enjoyed the local flavor of Sioux City. If you are ever in town, make sure to visit the new Sioux City Museum!

This fall, MAC rolled out its "\$40 for 40" campaign to fully fund the Motley and Bowen scholarship awards. What better way to celebrate MAC's 40th birthday than to invest in the education of future archivists and to honor the memory of two of MAC's most beloved leaders. I didn't know Louisa Bowen personally, but I understand she was a wonderful colleague who gave many hours to MAC in leadership roles and through her work on the newsletter. I do remember Archie Motley as the friendliest person at MAC meetings! He only had to meet you once and you were a friend—someone he called out to and remembered. I hope you will consider a donation to these worthy scholarships, named for these beloved MAC members.

Highlights from Council's meeting on October 19 are recounted elsewhere in this newsletter; however, I want to touch on two items. First, the Working Group on Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws, chaired by Menzi Behrnd-Klodt, provided an excellent proposal for updating these documents to meet twenty-first century conventions. Thanks to Menzi and her committee of Todd Daniels-Howell, Steve McShane, Josh Ranger, and Cheri Thies for their thorough and thoughtful work.

Great thanks also go to Matt Blessing for chairing MAC's new Financial Advisory Committee, which will put our investments to work for MAC members and oversee our financial operations. Please read his report and that of Treasurer Anke Voss in this newsletter. As our operating budget gaps become larger, we are seeking ways to reduce costs and supplement funds through on-line publication and development efforts. We also are discussing the necessity of raising dues. We certainly will want members' input as we take steps to ensure the financial health of our organization.

Please feel free at any time to contact me with your thoughts, comments, or questions about anything that is on your mind: eswain@illinois.edu.

Best Wishes,

Ellen D. Swain
President, Midwest Archives Conference

Grand Rapids: A City of Reinvention

(Continued from page 1)

combining ground gypsum with water and dyes to create a material that proved to be a durable wall coating. A decade later, gypsum was used in plaster, plaster mills began making wallboard, and Grand Rapids became known for a short time as the “gypsum center of the world.” The mines are no longer active today; instead, they are used as dry, secure storage for microfilm, including 70 percent of the state’s county legal records.

Among the nineteenth-century industries in Grand Rapids were furniture factories. In 1876, three of these firms displayed their best items at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, bringing national attention to the city. The furniture was designed to incorporate hand-crafted elements with a number of machine-carved elements. Factories produced new product lines about every third year and trademarked a “Grand Rapids Made” label. Annual markets were so well-attended by buyers that factories from as far away as New York and Boston opened showrooms in Grand Rapids. Grand Rapids eventually began calling itself the “furniture capital of the world.” The link to the furniture industry is still very much alive today as five of the world’s leading office furniture manufacturers are located in the area, including Steelcase and Herman Miller.

The businessmen, lumber barons, judges, and legislators who shaped the city settled in Grand Rapids’ first “neighborhood,” an area adjacent to downtown that is now known as Heritage Hill. Heritage Hill’s 1300 homes date from 1848 and represent over 60 architectural styles, including the Meyer May House, a prairie-style house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and built in 1908. A bus tour of Heritage Hill is one of the featured events of MAC’s 2012 Meeting.

When furniture sales began to decline, the Chamber of Commerce set about to attract new industry to the city and to diversify the local economy. However, economic diversification came slowly, and, as a result, unemployment rose during the late 1920s. The local response was the creation in 1929 of the scrip labor program. Workers were paid in scrip, rather than cash, and the scrip could be redeemed to pay city bills or to make purchases at the city grocery store. The city also distributed free bread and milk to needy children and families. Consequently, Grand Rapids came to be known as the “city where no child goes to bed hungry” and the “city where every man has a job.”

After World War II, a young political candidate, Gerald R. Ford (1913-2006), won election to the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1974, Ford became the 38th President of the United States. Today, Grand Rapids is home to the Ford Presidential Museum, located across the river from the Conference hotel. The Ford Museum is the location of the Thursday night reception and 40th anniversary celebration event. Open to the public since September 1981, the Ford Museum is unlike other Presidential museums in that the museum component is geographically separate from the Presidential library and archives.

Grand Rapids has a history of supporting community programs such as the symphony, ballet, civic theater, and



The Ford Museum is part of the Presidential Libraries system of the National Archives and Records Administration and opened to the public in 1981. Courtesy of the Grand Rapids Public Library.

art. The Public Museum was founded by a group of civic leaders in 1854, and, over the next century, the Museum established itself as one of the area’s premier educational institutions. It continues to fulfill this role for West Michigan today. In addition to the Public Museum, there are the Grand Rapids Art Museum and the Children’s Museum. Grand Rapids is also the home of the Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, as well as ArtPrize, an open art competition in which the public votes for their favorite piece. Some of these great attractions will be featured in tours, so sign up if you are interested in learning more!

If art is not for you, then one of Grand Rapids’ sports teams may be more to your taste. There are minor league hockey and baseball teams, as well as a flat-track women’s roller derby team. If beer is more to your liking, you can find out why the city came up with the slogan, “Cool City. Great Beer.” Grand Rapids is home to many local breweries,

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Grand Rapids: A City of Reinvention

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including Founders, named in 2011 as the number two brewery in the world.



Downtown Grand Rapids, the cultural and entertainment center of West Michigan, serves as a hub for conventions, major events and concerts, and important gatherings both large and small. Courtesy of the Grand Rapids Public Library.

While LAC would like you to experience as much of the city as possible, the Program Committee would like you to attend this year's sessions, beginning with Plenary Speaker Kate Theimer. Kate is the author of the popular blog, *ArchivesNext* (<http://www.archivesnext.com/>), which is one of the leading sources for information on archives' use of Web 2.0 tools. There are several other forward-looking sessions, as well as one session that will introduce you to MAC members whose names you recognize, but whose achievements you may not know.

Keep up with all the latest Conference information and more details regarding your future visit to Grand Rapids on the LAC conference blog, <http://2012mac.wordpress.com>, and please feel free to contact the 2012 LAC Cochairs Portia Vescio (vescio@msu.edu) or Marian Matyn (marian.matyn@cmich.edu) with any questions. The MAC Web site will also have breaking information. We'll see you in the spring in Grand Rapids!

Pal Program Returns to 2012 Annual Meeting

Attention new archivists and first-time meeting attendees: are you looking for someone to help guide you through your first MAC meeting? If your answer is "yes," the MAC Pal Program is for you. Debuting last year in St. Paul, the Pal Program is returning to the 2012 Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids. MAC Pals matches new members and/or first-time attendees with experienced members to help shepherd you through your first meeting. Your Pal can answer your off-the-record questions and introduce you to other MAC members.

Long-time members, we need your help, too! Please consider serving as a MAC Pal to assist your fellow members. This is a great opportunity for you to share your knowledge and experience. If you would like to request a MAC Pal or serve as a MAC Pal, simply check the appropriate box on the Annual Meeting registration form. An official MAC Pal event will take place on Thursday before the reception, and Pals are free to get together at other individually arranged times throughout the conference. For more information, contact LAC Cochairs Portia Vescio (vescio@msu.edu) or Marian Matyn (matyn1mj@cmich.edu). You will be notified in early April of your MAC Pal's name and contact information.

Magnetic Tape in Sioux City

By David McCartney, University of Iowa Libraries

This year's Fall Symposium, held on October 20–21 in Sioux City, Iowa, tackled the dicey subject of magnetic tape. We all have it, but do we understand it? The Symposium's presenters brought unique backgrounds to the topic: George



*George Blood of George Blood Audio and Video.
Photo by Adriana Cuervo.*

Blood of George Blood Audio and Video (formerly Safe Sound Archive) gave us the point of view of an engineer and vendor; Elizabeth Clemens, audiovisual archivist at Wayne State University, provided the archivist's outlook. Together, they provided information that was both well-rounded and enlightening. Topics included the structure and science of magnetic tape, the problem of obsolescence, preservation and survey tools, reformatting and working with a vendor, and the all-important equipment side of the equation.

From a technical perspective, magnetic media pose challenges on many fronts. Participants at the Symposium learned about these challenges and ways to address them, including recognizing threats to the media, locating the equipment necessary to support the media, taking steps to preserve the content of the media, preparing copies in



Symposium participants examining sample audio and video tapes from the 1960s. Photo by Adriana Cuervo.

contemporary and more stable formats both for preservation and access purposes, and seeking out resources to accomplish these goals.

A more detailed discussion of the topics covered in the Fall Symposium appears in the "Mixed Media" column elsewhere in this issue of the *MAC Newsletter*.



*Symposium participants examining sample audio and video tapes from the 1960s.
Photo by Adriana Cuervo.*

The Fall Symposium in Sioux City attracted 53 registrants from every state in the MAC region, plus participants from as far away as Arizona, Massachusetts, and Texas. In addition to attending the Symposium sessions, participants enjoyed a welcome reception on Wednesday evening, October 19, at the recently-opened Sioux City Public Museum. The museum, which occupies a former department store one block from the host hotel, is the product of a six-year, \$12 million community effort. Attendees enjoyed the displays, interactive exhibits ("Be a riverboat captain!"), and a 12-minute video introducing them to the city and region's history.

The next afternoon, following the first day of sessions, many of the attendees were treated to Grace Linden's insightful walking tour of historic downtown Sioux City, pointing out Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Romanesque Revival, and other building styles. The Woodbury County Court House, a highlight of the tour, is the world's largest public Prairie School building, occupying nearly half of one city block. Grace is a member of the museum staff and is uniquely qualified to offer a local perspective of her hometown's history. Our thanks to Grace for presenting an excellent program!

Revision to Constitution and By-Laws Set for April Members' Meeting

After asking the membership twice in as many years to approve amendments to the By-Laws and Constitution, MAC Council thought it best to make a thorough review of the documents to ensure that they are appropriate for our twenty-first century needs. A special task force headed by member Menzi Behrnd-Klodt concluded that several more changes should be made to bring the documents in line with current practices and technologies. The revisions made by the committee, among other things, permit the greater use of passive distribution of information (by permitting the electronic publishing of information); acknowledge the use of contract services for activities formally conducted by officers and other members; make more specific the language concerning standing and special committees; and permit the appointment of special, limited-term leadership positions for individuals. Copies of the marked-up documents and proposed final drafts are available for review on the MAC Web site homepage. These documents will also be sent to each member in good standing prior to the annual meeting via E-mail. A vote on the revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws will be made at the membership meeting at the 2012 Annual Meeting on Friday, April 20, 2012. For print copies of the revised Constitution and By-laws, please contact: Joshua Ranger, MAC Secretary, Polk Library, 800 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh, WI 54901.

Bowen Graduate Scholarship Support Available

MAC is soliciting applications for the 2012 Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Students in Archival Administration. The award is named in honor of Louisa Bowen, archivist and active MAC member, who died in 1996. To be eligible for the \$750 scholarship, the applicant must be a resident of or full-time student in the MAC region; be currently enrolled or accepted into a graduate, multicourse program in archival administration; and have a grade point average of at least 3.0 in the most recent academic year.

Application information is available from the MAC Web site, <http://www.midwestarchives.org/bowen>, or from the Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship Committee Chair Tom Steman. Completed application materials must be received electronically or be postmarked by **March 1**. The award will be announced at the MAC Annual Meeting.

Tom Steman
University Archivist/Associate Professor
St. Cloud State University
314C Miller Center
720 Fourth Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498
320-308-4753
tdsteman@stcloudstate.edu

Emeritus Scholarship for First-Time MAC Meeting Attendees

The Emeritus Scholarship provides a one-time travel stipend of up to \$500, or two \$250 stipends to graduate students or practicing archivists who have not previously attended a MAC meeting. The award may be used to cover travel, lodging, registration, workshop fees, and any other meeting expenses. MAC membership is not required, nor do applicants need to reside in the MAC region. The scholarship was envisioned by emeritus member Tim Ericson, and initial funding was provided by other MAC emeriti.

Applications for the scholarship may be downloaded from the MAC Web site at <http://www.midwestarchives.org/>. Applications must include an essay of no more than five hundred words and one letter of support. Applications

and supporting documentation may be submitted either electronically, or by postal mail or fax, and must be received by **February 1**. Electronic submissions are preferred. Please send all submission information to Ann Bowers, chair of the Selection Committee.

Ann Bowers
Center for Archival Collections
Jerome Library
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403
419-372-2413
Fax: 419-372-7996
abowers@bgsu.edu

2012 MAC Leadership Candidates Announced

The Nominating Committee of Tanya Zanish-Belcher (chair), Rebecca Bizonet, and Erik Moore announce that the following members have agreed to run for office in the upcoming election. The Nominating Committee determined the slate using the nominating guidelines.

Vice President (one position)

Menzi Behrnd-Klodt, Klodt and Associates, and
Xyte, Inc.

Mary Ellen Ducey, University of Nebraska

Treasurer (one position)

Pam Hackbart-Dean, Southern Illinois
University

Daardi Sizemore, Minnesota State
University—Mankato

Council (one position)

Tamar Chute, Ohio State University

Jennifer Johnson, Cargill (Minnesota)

Erik Nordberg, Michigan Technological
University

Nominating Committee (two positions)

Alison Stankrauff, Indiana University South
Bend

Glenn Longacre, National Archives and Records
Administration, Great Lakes Region

Michelle Sweetser, Marquette University

Lonna McKinley, National Museum of the U.S.
Air Force (Ohio)

MAC's election will be run electronically this year, from February 6 through March 5. If you need to request a paper ballot, please contact MAC Secretary Joshua Ranger. As in years past, the candidates' biographical information and statements will be posted on the MAC Web site prior to the election, <http://www.midwestarchives.org/>.

The elected officers will begin their terms at the conclusion of the annual members' meeting in April 2012.

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Apply for the 2012 Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship

Please consider applying for the Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship, designed to provide financial assistance to minority students pursuing graduate education in archival administration and to encourage ethnic diversification of the MAC membership and of the archival profession as a whole. Two \$750 scholarships, accompanied by one-year memberships to MAC, will be awarded.

In order to be eligible for a scholarship, the applicant must: be of African, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander, or Latino descent; be a student currently enrolled in or accepted in a graduate, multicourse program in archival administration; and have a grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). If the program is not listed in the SAA Directory of Archival Education, <http://archivists.org/prof-education/edd-index.asp>, the applicant must provide proof of the multicourse standard by submitting copies of course descriptions from the institution's current departmental catalog.

Applicants are not required to be residents of or students in the MAC region. Applications are available on the MAC Web site, <http://www.midwestarchives.org/motley>, or from Scholarship Committee Chair Elizabeth Myers. Applications must be received or postmarked by **March 1**. Awards will be announced no later than June 1.

Elizabeth Myers
Director, Women & Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago
1032 W. Sheridan Road
Piper Hall, 306
Chicago, IL 60660 USA
773-508-8837
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emyers@luc.edu

Between-Meeting Council Actions

Council passed the following motion unanimously via E-mail on September 9, 2011:

To approve the Radisson Cincinnati Riverfront, Covington, Kentucky, as the location of the 2012 Fall Symposium.



\$40 4 40
Help MAC Help Students

“\$40 for 40” Campaign Underway to Support Motley and Bowen Awards

Help MAC celebrate its 40th birthday with a \$40 gift to the Motley and/or Bowen Scholarships! Each award provides \$750 toward tuition for students pursuing graduate education in archival administration, plus a free MAC membership. Named in honor of archivists who made significant contributions to the MAC community, and who left us too soon, these annual awards exemplify MAC's goal of mentoring and supporting our future colleagues. Read more about the Campaign's target goals, the honored MAC members for whom the scholarships are named, and the deserving recipients at <http://www.midwestarchives.org/40-for-40-campaign>.

Deadlines for MAC Newsletters:

January issue: November 10

April issue: February 10

July issue: May 10

October issue: August 10

Send items to:

Jennie Thomas, MAC Newsletter Editor
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum

Library and Archives
2809 Woodland Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115
216-515-1942

jthomas@rockhall.org

Summary of Council Meeting Minutes, October 19, 2011

Below represents only a summary of the Council minutes for October 19, 2011. For the full minutes and submitted reports, please consult the MAC Web site or contact Joshua Ranger at ranger@uwosh.edu or at Polk Library, 800 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh, WI 54901.

MAC Council met on October 19, 2011, at the Sioux City Hotel, Sioux City, IA, with all Council members in attendance, either in person or by phone.

President Ellen Swain reported that preparations for the "\$40 for 40" scholarship fundraising drive are nearing completion in time for the membership renewal period. In addition, a special appeal to emeritus and founding members will be sent by emeritus member Mark Green for donations. Swain reported receiving an E-mail from SAA President Gregor Trinkaus-Randall about holding a forum on regional organization cooperation. Council agreed that MAC should participate in the event. Related to this, Swain wants to hold a forum on sub-regional cooperation in the Midwest at the MAC meeting in Grand Rapids.

Vice President Mark Shelstad reported on the progress of the RFP for conference planning services. Two bids were received that were in line with MAC's needs. Further discussions with the vendors will be required before the task force can make a recommendation. Shelstad noted that the costs for these services could possibly be added to the registration fee. Shelstad hopes that the vendor will be able to observe the 2012 Annual Meeting to gain understanding of MAC's practices.

Shelstad continued his report by updating Council on upcoming meetings. Planning for the 40th anniversary celebration is underway. Hotel contracts have been signed for the 2012 Fall Symposium in the Cincinnati area, as well as for the 2013 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. Secretary Joshua Ranger, as a representative of the planning committee, presented a proposal for the 2013 Fall Symposium to be held in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Ranger reported that MAC's polling, in preparation for the February election, showed a strong desire for a program on "refining the on-line presence of the archives." Council believed that this program could be offered as an "advanced" topic, and the planning committee will pursue this. Ranger gave details of two hotels that were identified in Green Bay as potential venues. Council asked for further investigation into hotels, and approved Green Bay for the location of the 2013 Symposium.

In addition to his secretary report, Ranger presented the recommendations of the Working Group on Review of MAC Constitution and By-laws. The Group's suggestions included numerous changes amounting to an official "revision" of the documents. These changes will need to be approved by the membership at the members' meeting in April. Council voted to accept the recommendations and pursue the vote. Ranger then presented the progress report of the Marketing Tools Working Group. The group asked Council to consider offering an *Archival Issues* "subscription-only" rate for out-of-region individuals. Council debated this at length and decided to defer a decision until the spring when dues will be discussed. Council voted to approve funds for a small promotional campaign recommended by the working group.

Treasurer Anke Voss, in her report, recommended that MAC hire out both periodic audits and tax preparation services to ensure fiduciary responsibility and compliance with an ever-changing tax environment. Council voted to approve funds for 2012 tax preparation, as well as for past state of Illinois filings that MAC was previously unaware were required. After discussion, Voss proposed an unbalanced budget, effectively highlighting the need for MAC both to increase its revenues and cut expenses. Council voted to approve the budget and will address the issue of the regular imbalances in April.

Council member and Publications Coordinator Kathy Koch reported that MAC is still experiencing problems with its printing vendor. This situation will be watched closely. She also noted that a new copyeditor has been hired with hopes that she will stay on.

Membership Committee Chair David McCartney reported that the MAC Pals Program will be continued, and he recommended that an individual be added to the Committee to coordinate this. Council voted to approve this and other small changes to the Committee's guidelines. Also, after some discussion, Council tasked McCartney to examine an alternative to the new members' dinner, which has proved to be very expensive.

Council voted to approve the 2012 election slate proposed by the Nominating Committee.

Steven Van Buren, representing *Archival Issues* Editor Barbara Floyd, announced that the Board wishes to pursue on-line, moderated discussions of *AI* articles via the MAC Web site. Council agreed that this should be investigated and attempted.

Treasurer's Report

By Anke Voss, Treasurer, Midwest Archives Conference

MAC's operating budget looks to be in good shape; however, expenses are on the rise, especially the cost of printing and distributing our various publications, even though we are committed to using an on-line (rather than mailed paper) ballot this coming year. Other monthly charges on the increase include on-line financial services (i.e., Memberclicks) that provide membership, conference vendors, and advertisers with the convenience of electronically submitting membership renewal, and conference registration, donation, purchase, and other payments.

Further, we are adding some new financial support services to our annual budget. To our knowledge, MAC has never had an external audit of its records and prepared tax returns. As requested by Council, I consulted with accounting firms to see about the feasibility of outsourcing MAC's annual tax filing and auditing services. Consequently, Council has agreed to contract for preparation and filing of the federal and state tax forms at an annual cost of approximately \$1,000, starting in 2012. Regarding audit services, my investigation led me to advise Council against annual full external audits (which would cost approximately \$6,000 each time), but to instead recommend periodic review (AUP) engagements at a cost of approximately \$1,000-\$2,000 per engagement. I also urged that in years when no external reviews are conducted, Council ask our Finance Committee to conduct an internal audit, beginning in 2012.

Because MAC does not have the annual income to cover the expenses outlined above, I had no choice but to propose an unbalanced budget for 2012, with the difference to be covered by operating reserves. This will be MAC's third consecutive unbalanced budget. To plan for balanced budgets in the future, I will be recommending to Council in April that it consider an increase in dues to at least sustain our current level of operations. The alternative would be to continue using operating reserves to balance recurring annual budget shortfalls for the foreseeable future.

You may ask, why should MAC not continue to fund its budget by drawing on its substantial operating reserves? Indeed, our investments are relatively stable, although in the current financial climate, returns on investments are very sluggish. I believe it would be unwise to bank our financial future on drawing down our reserve funds, which are meant to ensure stability during times of uncertainty and to provide a foundation for expanding member services, such as those proposed by the Task Force on Education. While we could certainly tap our operating or investment reserves to fund new initiatives, I believe a more prudent approach would be to build an investment portfolio that can realize a level of return capable of funding future expansions of MAC's mission.

New Committee Begins Work

MAC President Ellen Swain has appointed a new Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) with two immediate charges: (1) to recommend base endowment levels for the Louisa Bowen and the Archie Motley memorial scholarships, and (2) to propose investment guidelines and strategies for these and other investments. A standing committee was recommended by the 2010 Financial Advisory/Development Task Force. As the name suggests, FAC will serve in an advisory capacity to Council and MAC's other elected officers.

Committee members have been consulting with representatives from Lincoln Financial Advisors Corporation

in Columbus, Ohio, to determine the most appropriate investments for the two scholarship funds. The Committee assignment is timely, as MAC begins the "\$40 for 40" anniversary campaign to "top off" the two scholarship funds.

MAC's development coordinator, treasurer, and immediate past treasurer will serve on FAC. Other members serve at-large. The current Committee membership includes: Matt Blessing (chair), Martha Briggs, Miriam Kahn (development coordinator), Dennis Meissner, Anke Voss (treasurer, 2010-2012), Kenneth Wirth, and Craig Wright (past treasurer).



Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings Update

Mark Shelstad, Vice President, Midwest Archives Conference

MAC successfully completed its sixth Fall Symposium this past October. Held in Sioux City, Iowa, the Symposium kicked off with a reception at the new Sioux City Public Museum, followed by a full day-and-a-half with presenters George Blood and Elizabeth Clemens on the management of legacy audio and video formats. Covering the technical aspects of magnetic media, digitization processes, and preservation issues, the attendees came away with a wealth of knowledge to better manage their analog tape collections.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 19–21, 2012

Get ready to celebrate MAC's 40th anniversary! A variety of events are being planned to commemorate MAC's history, based on the Conference theme of "MAC at 40: The Future is Now." Nancy Richard, Portia Vescio, and the rest of the LAC are working on finalizing tours and the reception; the Local Arrangements and Membership Committees are coordinating the second MAC Pals Program to match new and veteran members; and the Program Committee, cochaired by Elizabeth Myers and Rachel Vagts, has finalized the sessions, which include remote reference services; getting and keeping that first archives gig; connecting to users with social media; digital preservation; and content management systems—just to name a few. Watch the meeting blog for updates at <http://2012mac.wordpress.com>.

Cincinnati, Ohio, October 18–20, 2012

A variety of studies have provided evidence about the many benefits of using primary sources in K-16 curricula. MAC's seventh Fall Symposium, cochaired by Anne Ryckbost and Lisa Sjoberg, will gather archivists and educators to learn and discuss methods for connecting students with primary sources. Three national speakers will provide hands-on opportunities to work with primary sources, develop assignments and lesson plans, and discuss best practices. The Symposium will be held at the Radisson Cincinnati Riverfront, and area restaurant tours and an evening reception are being planned.

Indianapolis, Indiana, April 17–20, 2013

Program Committee Cochairs Anne Thomason and Meg Miner, and LAC Cochairs Christine Guyonneau and Noraleen Young have completed assembling their respective committees for this meeting. The Program

Committee is exploring possible conference themes, and the LAC is making site visits for possible tours and the reception. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Indianapolis.

One of the keys to MAC's success is the willingness of its members to step forward with innovative meeting ideas. If you have an idea for a symposium topic or meeting location, be sure to check out the meeting planning portion of the MAC Web site. The meeting planning manuals contain templates for meeting proposals and numerous tips on planning a successful effort. If you have ideas or questions about MAC's meetings or symposiums, feel free to contact me at mark.shelstad@utsa.edu.



Upcoming MAC Meeting Sites and Dates

Annual Meeting, 2012 Grand Rapids, Michigan

April 19–21, 2012

Fall Symposium, 2012 Cincinnati, Ohio

October 18–20, 2012

Annual Meeting, 2013 Indianapolis, Indiana

April 17–20, 2013

Archival Resources on the Web—Adam Groves, Assistant Editor

Contact Adam at adamrgroves@yahoo.com if you would like to guest author a column or share a good idea.

Picturing the News: 20th Century American Political Cartoon Collections on the Web

By Jeremy Brett, independent archivist

The political cartoon represents, in its purest form, the truth of the old axiom that a picture is worth a thousand words. A clear, well-drawn graphic can be amazingly effective in expressing a particular political point, and has the ability to change minds, move hearts, inspire emotions, and shift loyalties. We recall the first American political cartoon, Benjamin Franklin's famous 1754 "Join, or Die" depiction of a snake (America) divided into its constituent parts (the British colonies), and how effectively and instantly that image summed up the dire need for colonial unity and the safety of union. We remember how *Harper's Weekly* cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902), with his caustic, razor-sharp drawings, helped to bring down the outrageously corrupt political reign of "Boss" William Tweed in 1870s New York City. We note that the term "McCarthyism," which gave its name to an entire era and sums up so much of the paranoid nastiness of the early Cold War years, was actually coined in a 1950 *Washington Post* cartoon by Herbert L. Block (1909-2001). As graphic representations of particular historical moments, trends, and phenomena, political cartoons are not only a colorful and visually striking way of bringing history to life, they are also crucial tools for historical scholarship. It is to researchers' great advantage that many archives and historical institutions are increasing efforts to introduce cartoon holdings to the digital world. In fact, there are numerous interesting and important on-line collections of editorial cartoons available on the World Wide Web.

Cartoonist Herb Block, a.k.a. "Herblock," chronicled in images the issues, personalities, passions, and follies of twentieth century America for the *Chicago Daily News*, and later, the *Washington Post*. Block (who famously made Richard Nixon's enemies list for his relentless pictorial criticism of the Nixon administration) was, without question, one of the most recognized and influential political cartoonists of the century, and there seems to have been no national issue that escaped his attention during his career. The fruits of Block's 72-year career are housed in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress, and a number of cartoons are available on-line at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hlb/>. The collection can be searched by subject, title, or format,

and the Web site provides helpful additional resources that supplement the images, including a brief biography, a bibliography, links to specific on-line exhibitions of Block's work, and the finding aid for Block's manuscripts that are also held by the Library of Congress.

While Herb Block enjoys a reputation as one of America's preeminent national-level cartoonists, important political cartooning can also be found at the local or regional levels. A sterling example of such work belongs to Midwesterner Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling (1876-1962). Beginning in 1900, Darling, an Iowa resident, drew daily cartoons for almost 50 years, first for the *Sioux City Journal*, and then for the *Des Moines Register and Leader* (with a brief unhappy stint at the *New York Globe* from 1911-1913). A solid, New Deal-hating Republican (who nevertheless was a passionate conservationist whom Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed as chief of the U.S. Biological Survey), Darling chronicled events ranging from Prohibition to the Great Depression to both World Wars. The vast majority of Darling's work is housed at the University of Iowa, which has digitized its entire collection of his cartoons; available at <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/ding/>. The cartoons can be searched by date and title, as well as by controlled vocabulary terms that cover topics, people, events, and depictions.

Also located in the Midwest is the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum at The Ohio State University, <http://cartoons.osu.edu/>, the mission of which is to develop "a comprehensive research collection documenting American printed cartoon art, to organize the materials, and to provide access to these resources." The Ireland Museum counts among its vast holdings a large number of American political cartoons, many of which can be accessed through the museum's on-line database.

Further south, the Richard B. Russell Library at the University of Georgia holds the work of cartoonist Clifford H. "Baldy" Baldowski (1917-1999), who, in his career at the *Augusta Chronicle*, the *Miami Herald*, and, most prominently, the *Atlanta Constitution* (1950-1983), produced over 15,000 individual editorial cartoons. Baldowski was a political moderate in an increasingly

conservative region, and his work, cartoons that are available on-line at <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/baldy.html>, documents a number of important topics; including, as the collection Web site puts it, “political reorganization in Georgia and the growth of Atlanta as well as the Civil Rights Movement, the Cold War, the Vietnam conflict, Middle East tensions, and Watergate.” The collection can be searched by a number of different methods, including keyword, title, subject, and publication date.

The American Association of Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC) is the professional union for freelance, staff, and student political cartoonists in the United States. The AAEC Editorial Cartoon Digital Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi, <http://digilib.usm.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/cartoon>, comprises more than 6,000 images dating from 1782 to 1980, many created since 1960. The collection is searchable via a number of helpful search terms, including title, creator, subject, geographic location, format, and publisher, although only 1,000 or so cartoons are available on-line at this time.

George Fisher (1923-2003), an Arkansas native, published cartoons in the *West Memphis News* from 1946 to 1949 and in the *North Little Rock Times*, starting in 1964. In 1972, he became a cartoonist for the *Arkansas Gazette*, and, later in life, he left mainstream newspapers to draw for the alternative weekly, *Arkansas Times*. Fisher was enormously popular throughout Arkansas, and his cartoons depicted a dizzying array of local, state, and national subjects. The University of Arkansas holds Fisher’s papers, and a sampling of his drawings are available on-line at http://scipio.uark.edu/cdm4/index_GeoFisher.php?CISOROOT=/GeoFisher.

The editorial cartooning career of Theodor Seuss Geisel (1904-1991) has gone generally unrecognized, as he is much better known for his fabulously creative children’s books. From 1941 to 1943, however, Geisel was also chief editorial cartoonist for the left-leaning publication *PM*, for which he produced a number of cartoons lambasting isolationists and strongly supporting the U.S. involvement in World War II. Geisel’s papers, including his original drawings, are housed at the University of California, San Diego, which hosts an on-line exhibit of Geisel’s war cartoons at <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/speccoll/dspolitic/index.htm>. The digitized cartoons are organized by year and can be browsed by subject categories, including people, countries/regions, war/domestic issues, and battles and battlefields.

In addition to assembling the work of an individual cartoonist, a cartoon collection can also represent a particular subject. Everett Dirksen (1896-1969) represented Illinois in the U.S. Congress for more than 30 years (1933-1949 in the House, 1951-1969 in the Senate) and was one of the Senate Republicans’ key leaders. Dirksen was involved in many of the great political issues of his time, including the Cold War, Civil Rights legislation, the Great Society, and the Vietnam War, and was therefore widely depicted in the political cartoons of the day. The Dirksen Congressional Center, based in Pekin, Illinois, holds the papers of Dirksen and other Illinois politicians, and features an on-line collection of Dirksen-related cartoons at www.congresslink.org/cartoons/index.htm. The 300 collected images are listed both chronologically and by subject, and represent the work of a number of important cartoonists, including Herblock, Pat Oliphant, Al Capp, Bill Maudlin, and Jim Berryman.

The resources listed in this article are only a few of the many collections of American political cartoons available on the World Wide Web. It is a credit to our profession that so many archivists and institutions have realized the historical significance of these images, as well as their inherent research potential. Political cartoons chronicle the progress of our history and our evolution as a people, capturing these phenomena in a few quick strokes of a pen. They are certainly worth our time and attention, and efforts by archivists to make them accessible to wider audiences through the World Wide Web are enormously important to the future understanding and interpretation of our shared history.

News from the Midwest—Troy Eller, Wayne State University, and Alison Stankrauff, Indiana University South Bend Assistant Editors

Please submit “News from the Midwest” items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Troy Eller at troy.eller@wayne.edu; and items for Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Alison Stankrauff at astankra@iusb.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less.

ILLINOIS

American College of Surgeons (ACS)

The ACS Archives has acquired two sets of travel and retirement scrapbooks from Eleanor K. Grimm, personal secretary to the founder of the ACS. The ACS also has Grimm’s 26-volume ACS History Notebooks typescripts, commissioned in 1951, which cover surgical history from ancient times, biographies of early twentieth century surgical leaders, and development of College programs: <http://www.facs.org/archives>.

Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)

The IIT Archives has received architect Robert Philip Gordon’s personal papers, which document all aspects of his professional career. Gordon worked primarily in Paris and Chicago, two cities well-known for their architecture and urban planning. In Chicago, Gordon worked on city planning projects under three different mayoral administrations. In 1970, Gordon founded Robert Gordon Associates, which accepted private commissions for residential and commercial clients. He is also co-founder of the Grant Park Conservancy. The collection is fully catalogued and open to researchers. Search the archives for a detailed description of the collection at <http://archives.iit.edu/rediscoveryproficiopublicsearch/archivehome.aspx?basic>. For more about Gordon, see <http://www.robertgordonarchitect.com/RGA/Home.html>.

Illinois Wesleyan University

Summer 2011 brought the biggest accession of the year to the Tate Archives and Special Collections at Illinois Wesleyan University. Approximately 130 linear feet of photographic negatives, contact sheets, and slides, dating from the 1960s to 1990s and formerly stored in the basement of a campus building and in the campus photographer’s office, were transferred to the archives for processing. A regularly staffed campus unit will provide access to these images of campus life for reference and research purposes. A process by which to make an in-house index publicly available is currently being sought.

Newberry Library

The Newberry Library received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities Division of Preservation and Access to arrange, describe, and make electronically accessible the archives of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company, which span the years 1840 to 1965. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company was one of the nation’s largest and most significant railroads, controlling transportation over much of the country between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River. See <http://publications.newberry.org/cbq/> for more information.

Northern Illinois University (NIU)

In October, NIU’s Regional History Center curated the exhibit, “BUY LOCAL: The Evolution of Advertising in Northern Illinois Commerce.” The exhibit displayed advertisements from regional businesses, showing

the impact of New York’s Madison Avenue advertisement scene on local culture from the 1890s through the onset of the digital age. An on-line component of the exhibit can be viewed at <http://libguides.niu.edu/buylocal>.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

The Special Collections cataloger at Southern Illinois University Carbondale discovered *Descriptionis Ptolemaicae augmentum, siue Occidentis notitia*, published in 1597 by Jean Bogard in Louvain, Belgium. The book is a first edition, first issue of the earliest atlas of the New World, and was published as an addition to Ptolemy’s geography. Only three other libraries are known to have a copy of this volume. Read more on our *Raiders of the Lost Archives* blog at <http://scrcl.wordpress.com/>.

INDIANA

Indiana Digital Archives

Seventeen years of comprehensive coverage of Indiana politics will soon be available to the public when the *Howey Political Report/Howey Politics Indiana (HPI)* debuts on the Indiana Digital Archives Web site. Businessman and journalist Brian Howey donated copies of his publication to the Indiana State Library. Weekly HPI editions and the *HPI Daily Wire* will be available at the Indiana Digital Archives: <http://indianadigitalarchives.org/>.

Indiana Historical Society (IHS)

The redesigned IHS Web site, www.indianahistory.org/library/, is contin-

ually updated and includes enhancements related to IHS Collections. During the first nine months of 2011, the 45 digital collections created with CONTENTdm surpassed 48,000 searchable images. One hundred-ten new manuscript and visual collection guides were cataloged and placed on-line, 537 printed items were cataloged, 479 new Indiana-related collections were accessioned, and the site received an average of 11,500 hits per month. One of the new digital collections is the Emmett I. Brown Photograph Collection, which includes images from the Brown Show Case photography shop of great and near-great musicians and celebrities who visited Indianapolis in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Indiana State Archives

A collaborative effort between the State Archives Division of the Indiana Commission on Public Records and the Indiana Supreme Court has resulted in the preservation and cataloging of approximately 31,000 Indiana Supreme Court cases, from 1791 to 1878. Interns from Butler University and Indiana University–Purdue University–Indianapolis (IUPUI) have been major contributors to this project. Ultimately, the project will encompass every decided and dismissed Indiana Supreme Court case from 1791 through the 1970s. The database of historic cases is available at <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/cases/>.

Indiana State Library

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a \$293,157 grant to the Indiana State Library to digitize Indiana's historically significant newspapers as part of the National Digital Newspaper Program. Newspapers digitized as part of this two-year project will be included in the Library of Congress'

"Chronicling America" database and Indiana Memory: <http://www.indianamemory.org/>. An advisory group of members from the Indiana State Library, Indiana Historical Bureau, Ball State University, Hoosier State Press Association, Indiana Historical Society, Indiana University School of Journalism, and IUPUI will develop criteria for inclusion and selection of the newspapers to be digitized.

Marion Public Library

Marion Public Library is pleased to announce that it received a Library Services and Technology Act grant in 2011 for \$6,559 to purchase computers and a scanner dedicated to genealogy research for Indiana Room patrons. The library-match included a printer and new ergonomic work stations. The new computer lab also makes it possible to conduct genealogy workshops.

Willard Library

In collaboration with the Evansville Zoological Society, the Willard Library has compiled *A Pictorial History of Mesker Park Zoo*. Printed by M. T. Publishing Company, the book features hundreds of images of the zoo, dating from circa 1910 to the present. The zoo is the second oldest in Indiana and remains one of Evansville's most popular cultural and historical attractions. A sampling of images from the Willard's collection is viewable at <http://www.willard.lib.in.us/>.

IOWA

University of Iowa (UI)

The entire 143-year run of the *Daily Iowan*, the University of Iowa's independent student newspaper, is now on-line. The result of a four-year collaborative effort between the UI Libraries and Student Publications,

Inc., the collection is part of the Iowa Digital Library: <http://dailyiowan.lib.uiowa.edu/>.

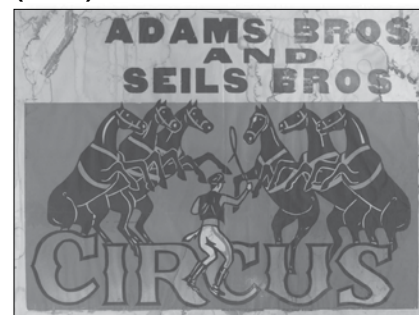
KANSAS

National Archives at Kansas City

Preserving family photos, papers, and other treasures will be the focus of "Preservation Matters," a public event to be held at the National Archives in Kansas City on Saturday, May 5, 2012. A variety of speakers will address topics related to preservation, such as caring for traditional and digital photographs, scrapbooks, diaries, clothing, artifacts, and ephemera. Patrons are invited to bring in personal items for a consultation on preservation needs. Complete information will be posted at <http://www.archives.gov/central-plaints/kansas-city/index.html>.

MICHIGAN

Central Michigan University (CMU)



Adams Bros. and Seils Bros. Circus poster, 1960, part of the Rev. James Challancin Circus Collection being processed at the Clarke. The poster, damaged by mildew, water, and mold, was digitized to preserve this unique element of circus history.

Clarke Historical Library Archivist Marian Matyn will teach a history course on Archives Management

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

in 2012. A collaborative effort with CMU's Public History program, the class will teach archival theory and hands-on archival skills to students to help them find employment after graduation. For further information on the Clarke, visit <http://clarke.cmich.edu/>, or see Matyn's blog at <http://archivistrising.blogspot.com/>.

Cranbrook

Two collections of architectural drawings by famed father-and-son architects, Eliel and Eero Saarinen, have been cataloged. One collection features Eero's 1956 Research Metallurgical Building at the General Motors Technical Center in Warren, Michigan, which was once considered the "Versailles of Industry." Also open for research are the papers of Marianne Strengell, head of the Cranbrook Academy of Art Weaving Department for 25 years. For more information, see the Cranbrook Archives Web site at <http://www.cranbrook.edu/archives>.

Historical Society of Michigan

The Historical Society of Michigan has received a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to facilitate the active engagement of Michigan's minority and underserved communities in the appreciation of state history. The grant's goals include increasing the number of minority students participating in Michigan History Day; developing new article content focusing on the heritage of Michigan's minorities; and establishing two new positions to implement these efforts: <http://www.hsmichigan.org/2011/10/17/2227/>.

MINNESOTA

Saint John's University

The Dr. Edward L. Henry (1921–

2010) Collection is now available to researchers at the Saint John's University Archives. A 1943 Saint John's graduate; professor of political science and university vice president; mayor of St. Cloud; president of Saint Mary's (IN) and Saint Michael's (VT) Colleges; and founder of the Center for the Study of Local Government at Saint John's, Henry was also an advocate for small communities, Catholic education, and effective government. Included in the collection are his high school and college memorabilia; personal accounts of his naval service in World War II; texts of his public addresses; photographs; and articles by and about him. See <http://www.csbsju.edu/Edward-Henry/Collection.html>.

MISSOURI

Saint Louis University

This past spring, the Medical Center Library at Saint Louis University was awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) American Heritage Preservation Grant for \$2,982. The library will use grant funding to initiate environmental monitoring and stabilization of its archival collections through the purchase of various enclosures, two data loggers, a HEPA filter museum vacuum, and ultraviolet fluorescent light filters. By the end of the project, the archival materials will be stored appropriately, and access to the collection will be greatly improved.

NORTH DAKOTA

Dickinson State University (DSU)

The Theodore Roosevelt Center has launched its new Web site. This new portal for discovering and exploring Roosevelt and his era includes a digital

library with documents and artifacts from DSU, the Library of Congress, Harvard University, and six National Park sites. It also includes an articles database, information for researchers, and a newly redesigned blog: <http://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org>.

OHIO

OhioLINK

The Ohio EAD FACTORY (Finding Aid Creation Tool and Online Repository) now has 50 participating institutions throughout Ohio, including academic institutions, public and special libraries, historical societies, and museums. The EAD FACTORY currently contains over 2,050 finding aids, centrally searchable and browsable across contributing institutions; available at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu>.

Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB)

In October, OHRAB recognized two institutions with its Achievement Award. Licking County Records and Archives Department was recognized for rescuing and making available county records not seen for more than a century, and for the effective management of contemporary records via its Records Keepers' Roundtable. The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County was recognized for its investment in a digital services department, and its Virtual Library. See http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ohrab/index.php?title=Awards_Committee.

Ohio University

Ohio University Libraries has opened the George V. Voinovich Seminar Room to provide a space for teaching and learning using the Voinovich Collection and other archival materials. The collection, housed at the University's Mahn Center for Archives and Special Collections, consists

of Voinovich's gubernatorial and senatorial papers, artifacts, and other materials related to his decades-long political career. See the Mahn Center Web site for more information: <http://www.library.ohiou.edu/archives>.

WISCONSIN

Carthage College

This past April, the Staubitz Archives at Carthage College launched an initiative to make almost one hundred years of yearbooks accessible on-line. In partnership with ArcaSearch, Carthage yearbooks from 1911 to 2009 are now digitized and rendered fully searchable. As part of a larger effort to improve access to Carthage history, the opening of the digital yearbook archive coincides with the celebration

of Carthage's 165th anniversary. Users may access the yearbooks by visiting <http://news.arcasearch.com/uswicar>.

Marquette University

The national traveling exhibit, "Lewis & Clark and the Indian Country," will be at Marquette University's John P. Raynor, S.J., Library March 13–April 27, the final destination of a four-year tour. Organized by the Newberry Library and the ALA Public Programs Office, the exhibit tells the story of the historic 1804–1806 expedition from a different point of view: that of the Indians who lived along the route.

University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM)

The UWM Archives is pleased to announce the opening of the James

Liddy (1938–2004) Papers. The collection contains the writings of the world-renowned Irish-American poet and former UWM professor, who studied under Patrick Kavanagh and was influenced by writers James Joyce and Jack Kerouac. A prolific writer, Liddy contributed poems, articles, and reviews to numerous periodicals; over 30 books and chapbooks of poetry bear his name. Some of his better-known works include Baudelaire's *Bar Flowers*, *A White Thought in a Whiter Shade*, *Collected Poems*, and *The Doctor's House*. The literary papers include correspondence, photographs, publications, drafts of works, and several unpublished works. The finding aid is on-line at <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/wiarchives.uw-mil-uwmms0300>.



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E-mail Preservation Options

By Christopher Prom, University of Illinois

The prominent *Atlantic* journalist and blogger James Fallows recently described how an E-mail hacker destroyed records having great personal value: his wife's entire Gmail archives, covering many years of her life.¹ Although Fallows' story ended happily, with the records having been recovered through insider connections at Google, it seems likely that, for the population in general, little E-mail correspondence is currently being saved and preserved for its historical value.

In a follow-up piece, Fallows noted how the E-mail records of a prominent journalist that are likely of great historical value were similarly lost.² At my own institution, one important university officer recently lost all E-mail prior to 2010, apparently during a system migration. An important scholar with whom I've been in contact related a very similar story. The evidence I cite is anecdotal, but how many of our institutions are actually capturing records from E-mail communications?

We in the archival community can and must help people save E-mail in a way that makes it likely that E-mail records will one day become research collections, openly accessible for their historical value. In order to do this, each institution will need to develop its own rationale for a long-term E-mail preservation plan in light of local needs, institutional profiles, mandates, and policies. Without denying the paramount importance of defining these policies, this article will provide some technical options that might be used to provide the building blocks for a set of local E-mail preservation services, under the rubric of the two general approaches that are practicable using currently available technologies.

Option One: The Whole Account Approach

Institutions wishing to use the whole account approach would capture E-mail found on a user's computer or account, working directly with the individual or his/her heirs. In practical terms, many institutions that have not previously worked with E-mail preservation may wish to begin with this method.

In many ways, this approach reflects the traditional archival model of capturing records at the end of the lifecycle, and then taking archival custody of them. Archivists may pursue this approach in several ways. They might work in conjunction with information technology (IT) staff to get a copy of the E-mail in its native format, or they might deploy E-mail capture software directly with E-mail users. Once the native files have been secured, they can be migrated using tools such as those discussed below.

Once migrated, the E-mail should be stored in a trusted digital repository, applying appropriate preservation practices, and including descriptive and preservation metadata. Oxford University has been successfully using this approach, and we can all learn many lessons from their experience.³

Once you are comfortable accepting and accessioning entire E-mail accounts, you will be in a good position to offer guidance and assistance to E-mail users, helping them to ensure that critical records are retained in system-neutral formats until they are ready to donate their records to archives. At that point, you can apply E-mail migration software to capture and preserve E-mail. Several tools that can facilitate the use of this "whole account" approach are outlined below.

Adobe Acrobat Pro

General office applications, such as Adobe Acrobat, may play a limited role in E-mail preservation projects. When Acrobat Professional is installed on a local workstation that also includes Microsoft Outlook, a menu item is added to Outlook, allowing users to save individual messages or groups of messages to a PDF file or PDF portfolio; however, messages saved in these formats will see an extreme loss of fidelity. In particular, portions of the header will be excluded, and even if attachments are encoded correctly in the PDF file, this roundabout method of preservation poses extreme risk of data loss.

Mailstore Home

This application, which is free for non-commercial use, provides private individuals a method to back up their E-mail accounts to a local computer or external drive, storing content in a proprietary format, while allowing export to system-neutral formats. Several paid versions of Mailstore are also available for commercial or educational use.

EmailChemmy

A paid application, EmailChemmy can convert many proprietary and open mail formats stored as local files to open-format targets, such as EML and MBOX files. It also includes a built-in E-mail server and can migrate converted messages to another IMAP-compliant server.

Aid4Mail

A Windows-based desktop application, Aid4Mail can convert many mail formats to a wide range of open and proprietary formats. It can also connect to E-mail servers

(such as Gmail and Microsoft Exchange) to directly harvest E-mail. It includes a filtering system to exclude or include messages meeting stated criteria in the exported set, a scripting language to allow for custom export formats, and the ability to save E-mails directly to PDF/A format.

CERP E-mail Parser

A Web application that runs in an open source virtual machine (Smalltalk Squeak), the CERP E-mail Parser was developed by the Collaborative Electronic Records Project. The tool transforms a single or multiple MBOX file(s) into a single XML file that holds the contents of an entire E-mail account and complies with the requirements of the XML Account Schema Format, which was jointly developed by the North Carolina State Archives and Smithsonian Institution Archives.

Option Two: The Whole System Approach

This approach refers to implementing so-called “E-mail archiving” software to capture an entire E-mail ecosystem, or a portion of that ecosystem, to an external storage environment. Optionally, rules can be applied either at time of capture or disposition to specify retention periods limited to sender, recipient, date sent, keyword, or classification. Ideally, records will be written in a system-neutral format, allowing for the integration of records into a trusted digital repository.

The Social and Public Health Sciences Unit (SPHSU) in the United Kingdom’s Medical Research Council successfully uses this approach for medium-term preservation, while leaving open the possibility of long-term preservation. Since 2007, the Unit has been using a dual-license program, MailArchiva, to mirror a copy of every sent and received message for the approximately 120 accounts managed by their Qmail server. The messages are written in EML format to an external store that is located on a separate physical machine. MailArchiva keeps an index of the messages and generates a Web-accessible discovery site, which includes filter and search features and is integrated with existing authentication services. Using this interface, staff can view messages and optionally save them in EML format outside the system, from where they can then be restored to the account or manipulated in other software.

SPHSU chose to implement this software for several reasons. By 2007, it was apparent that the volume of E-mail on the sending/receiving server had outstripped available resources. With quotas in place, many users were writing E-mail to local computers, losing important messages, or asking for restores from tape backup, even several years after they had deleted messages. While IT staff could accommodate most

requests, they felt burdened by an inefficient storage and retrieval process, and their IT advisory committee agreed to consider other options.

SPHSU’s system was put in place with a few policy guidelines, which have been incorporated into their general IT policies and are provided to all employees upon hire. These policies simply state that each employee has a 2.5 GB limit on his or her personal account, and that all sent and received messages will be captured to an external archives that can be accessed at any time via a Web browser. In addition, an employee’s supervisors are provided access to the account, and employees are told that the software will continue to mirror their accounts for at least six months after they leave employment, after which their Qmail account will be deleted. Employees can export messages from their archives at any time, should they desire a personal copy. If necessary, system administrators can export a large volume of messages in EML or other formats for import to other systems.

In short, E-mail archiving software provides an institution with the ability to put a policy of medium-term preservation into action. Although MailArchiva is one tool that provides both an open source and an enterprise licensing option, institutions may also wish to pursue other tools, such as the Symantec Enterprise Vault, which includes a mechanism to integrate directly with enterprise E-mail servers, such as Microsoft Exchange.

By using emergent tools and services to put time-tested archival concepts into practice, we in the archival community can provide our organizations and individuals with the essential service of E-mail preservation. While the tools discussed do not solve the human problem (convincing a donor to trust you with his or her E-mail), they do provide a foundation on which the personal relationships and policies can be built.

Notes

1. James Fallows, “Hacked!,” *The Atlantic*, November 2011, <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/10/hacked/8673/#>.
2. James Fallows, “Today’s E-mail Real-Life Scare Story—James Fallows—Technology—The Atlantic,” *The Atlantic Blogs*, 2 November 2011, <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2011/11/todays-E-mail-real-life-scare-story/247791/>.
3. Chris Prom, “Receiving and Managing E-mail Archives at the Bodleian Library: A Case Study,” *Practical E-Records*, 12 August 2011, <http://e-records.chrisprom.com/?p=2200>.

Mixed Media: Working with Audio and Visual Materials—

Paul Eisloeffel, Assistant Editor, Nebraska State Historical Society

Mysteries of Magnetic Tape Revealed at MAC Fall Symposium

By Paul Eisloeffel, Nebraska State Historical Society

What do the terms “azimuth,” “control track,” and “sticky shed” all have in common? If you answered “magnetic tape,” take yourself out for a nice meal. You probably already know more about that staple of audiovisual media than most archivists. To the rest of us, magnetic tape is but a bundle of mysteries.

Confronting those mysteries was the purpose of MAC’s 5th annual Fall Symposium, a short but intense examination of the world of magnetic tape. From science to storage, machines to migration, the Fall Symposium took attendees on a fast-paced journey through what was, for many, an uncharted territory. Our guides through this tangle were Elizabeth Clemens, audiovisual archivist at Wayne State University in Detroit, and George Blood of George Blood Audio and Video in Philadelphia (formerly Safe Sound Archive)—she to provide an archivist’s view, and he, that of an engineer and vendor.

It would be folly to attempt to summarize the full Symposium here in a mere 1,500 words, but there were three major issues that stood out to this writer. Herewith is a digest of those main points.

Threats: What Can Possibly Go Wrong?

A lot, as it turns out. After an enlightening look at the structure and workings of magnetic tape, we learned about its vulnerabilities. First and foremost is the rampant obsolescence associated with these unique documents. Unlike most archival materials, audiovisuals in general are machine-dependent, requiring machines to create them and mechanical intervention to access them. However, evolving formats—especially of magnetic tape—have outpaced most archives’ ability to keep up. This format obsolescence, some experts contend, is the greatest threat to our magnetic tape heritage.

Further threats include chemical assaults, like the mix of the tape’s chemistry with high humidity, which results in sticky shed syndrome and vinegar syndrome.² Biological threats include mold, mildew, and fungus, which can each compromise tape surfaces and edges. Finally, mechanical threats arise from damaged housings, misadjusted or dirty playback machines, and strong magnetic fields. The first two of these are tied primarily to poor storage conditions that harbor temperature and humidity fluctuations, particularly high humidity.

Most importantly, the instructors imbued us with a respect for the fragility of magnetic tape, and the fact that, more than any other type of document, its lifespan is on a collision course with time.

Preservation: Save That Tape! (If You Can)

If the above-mentioned are the major threats, then the defenses are obvious: make sure that all your tapes are in good condition, provide a stable storage environment for them, and have access to a parade of machines of every format in good working order. There’s just one problem: reality. There is no such archives. Nevertheless, we need not sit idly by and merely witness the demise of our tapes. There are ways to hedge our bets against time.

It’s all about selection and priorities: discerning what has both the most compelling reason and the least chance to survive. Toward this end, we learned the value of labeling and documentation, some simple ways to examine tapes for problems, proper storage and handling, and how to estimate the longevity of certain formats by their production histories.

Most significantly, we were introduced to assessment surveys, on-line tools that can not only create a profile of the repository’s holdings but also help the archivist set priorities for preservation. A few of these have cropped up in the recent past,³ but the instructors focused on one newly-launched tool called the “Audiovisual Self-Assessment Program” (AvSAP), a work of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (see <http://www.library.illinois.edu/prescons/projgrants/grants/avsap>). AvSAP is designed to collect data about audiovisual holdings and their condition, helping archivists to create a plan for the prioritized preservation of audiovisual materials—including, of course, magnetic media. It also provides guidance for staffers on “extending the lives of their collections with the resources at hand.”⁴ With such tools at the archivist’s disposal, we’ve got time on the run.

All of which segues nicely into the third issue. . .



Duplication: Every Season Is Migration Season

Not so long ago (a relative few years), the standard practice for duplication was to migrate existing media to the latest and most robust analog magnetic tape format available; the thinking being that analog was more stable than digital tape. Format obsolescence changed all that, as it became clear that analog media would soon become extinct. It was at that time that migration to digital media was embraced. Now, it is the norm.

But what format? What media? What process? The instructors admitted that no real standards exist, but many best practices do. Learn the potential scale of your project by taking into account the needs of your institution and the level of support it can provide, but also be willing to listen to vendors, who are most often happy and willing to work with you to determine the best scenario for your project. The Symposium instructors presented a detailed item-by-item representation of the client-vendor relationship, the principal lesson being the importance of thoughtful and frequent communication.

The instructors extolled the strong connection between duplication and preservation. While there are other reasons to digitize (such as patron requests), the primary motivation is to preserve the content of a recording before it succumbs to the ravages of obsolescence, degradation, and time.

Resources: We Are Not Alone . . .

. . . and thankfully so. This is not really an issue as much as a resource. Included in our instruction were repeated references to organizations and Web sites that are exploring and meeting the challenges of magnetic media head-on. A few of the most useful are the following:

The Association for Recorded Sound Collections (<http://www.arsc-audio.org>)

The Association of Moving Image Archivists (<http://www.amianet.org>)

Audio and Video Carriers (http://www.tape-online.net/docs/audio_and_video_carriers.pdf)

The Care and Handling of Recorded Sound Materials (<http://www.cool.conservation-us.org/byauth/st-laurent/care.html>)

Magnetic Tape Storage and Handling: A Guide for Libraries and Archives (<http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub54>)

Videotape Identification and Assessment Guide (<http://www.arts.state.tx.us/video/pdf/video.pdf>)

Videotape Preservation Handbook (<http://www.amianet.org/resources/guides/WheelerVideo.pdf>)

Other issues regarding magnetic tape were covered, such as copyright, collection, funding, and research use practices. But alas, space does not permit this writer to expound further.

Magnetic media contains *the* audiovisual record of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. We should do all we can to preserve its content, and that begins with education. The MAC Symposium, *Mysteries of Magnetic Tape Revealed*, put us on the road to that understanding. Illumination: priceless!

Notes

1. These three terms are defined thus: (1) “Azimuth” is the angle between the magnetic tape and the tape head(s) in an audio or video machine; (2) A “control track” runs along the edge of standard analog videotape that defines the individual frames of the tape to determine proper playback speed; and (3) “Sticky shed syndrome,” or “binder hydrolysis,” occurs when a magnetic tape’s binder has deteriorated to the point that it sheds on playback, leaving gummy deposits on the tape path guides and heads of an audio or video machine.
2. “Vinegar syndrome” is a chemical reaction caused by the mixture of moisture (humidity) and the acetate plastic used for many films and audiotapes. This causes a deterioration of the acetate base and is characterized by a vinegar smell.
3. Other survey tools include Columbia University Libraries’ *Survey Instrument for Audio & Moving Image Collections*, <http://library.columbia.edu/services/preservation/audiosurvey.html>; Indiana University and Harvard University’s *Field Audio Collection Evaluation Tool* (FACET), <http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/projects/sounddirections/facet/index.shtml>; and New York University’s *Visual & Playback Inspection Ratings System* (ViPIRS), <http://library.nyu.edu/preservation/movingimage/vipirshome.html>.
4. “The University of Illinois Library Launches Audio-visual Self-Assessment Program,” University Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 12 August 2010, http://www.library.illinois.edu/prescons/projgrants/grants/avsap/AvSAP_Promotionalmaterials.html, (5 November 2011).

Up-and-Comers: News for Student Archivists—Matthew Peek, **Assistant Editor, Kent State University**

*Have any news to share about your own internship, class project, or SAA student chapter?
Contact Matthew Peek at freakyhistorian@hotmail.com*

The Hiring Manager's View: Unsolicited Advice for Archivists Looking for Their First Job

By Mark A. Greene, University of Wyoming

First, a disclaimer: There are no standards for “How to Hire an Archivist.” Any two equally-experienced hiring managers may differ on a variety of points. In other words, do not take what follows as gospel truth. With that caveat presented, let’s get on with it.

It is brutal in the job market right now, I might as well tell you. As I write this, we have an entry-level position open, and 65 applications for it waiting to be reviewed; we had nearly identical numbers for an open position last year. One job to 65 candidates is not a good ratio. So you want—you NEED—to do everything you can, in both your cover letter, your vita (or resume), and your interviews to make a distinctly favorable impression on the members of a search committee (usually three to five people for an entry-level job). But, as is often the case, perhaps I can best make some of my points by listing things that will make a distinctly UNfavorable impression.

Six Things Not to Do If You Really Want the Job

First, do not send a generic cover letter that does not specifically and clearly address the job’s requirements. Second, do not send a cover letter with even a single typographical error—more than one, and you’re guaranteed not to make the first cut. Third, do not send a cover letter containing no indication that you have visited the employing repository’s Web site. Fourth, do not use a phrase like, “I don’t meet the stated requirements but I really love history/archives.” Fifth, do not send a vita or resume that does not make your educational and employment background completely obvious—for example, by listing your “skills” rather than the positions you have held and when you held them. Sixth, do not ignore employment sites such as Monster.com and the importance of researching frequently asked interview questions. While some of the questions in your interview will be very specific to archival work, several will be more generic. There is no excuse for freezing up when asked “why do you want THIS job” or “tell us your greatest strength and your greatest weakness” (and don’t dare say “I’m a workaholic” in answer to either part).

Five Things That Set Candidates Apart (in a Good Way)

First, use your cover letter to specifically relate both your skills and your goals to the mission and most significant current activities of the repository. Second, tweak your vita (or resume) for the specific job at hand, to draw attention to experience and education of particular relevance—for example, by highlighting your retail customer service background for a reference and outreach position. Third, pay attention to the formatting of your cover letter and vita/resume. Even though almost all position searches ask for submissions electronically, this does not mean it is acceptable to submit .txt files or files that may display incorrectly on the recipients’ screens; if necessary, find a way to convert your documents to PDF to ensure accurate rendition.

Fourth, if you do not, in fact, meet all the requirements, be certain that you can identify a significant attribute you do possess that might cause search committee members to pause and think “hmmmm . . .”—which is to say, it is acceptable to apply for positions that seem a stretch, so long as you bring something special to the table. Fifth, most search committees are looking for individuals who indicate commitment to professionalism, not simply interest in a job. Developing a vita/resume that demonstrates engagement in the profession even during graduate school—e.g., attendance at conferences (presenting a student poster is even better), active involvement in the student SAA chapter, or volunteering at a library or repository—will give you a leg up. Sixth, remember that job interviews, whether preliminary over the phone or on-site as a finalist, require a certain degree of formality. Do not conduct your phone interview with a TV, barking dog, or any other distracting noise audible in the background. And it is still appropriate (indeed, expected) to “dress up” (in a relatively conservative fashion) for on-site interviews.

A Few Odds and Ends

I am frequently asked whether being a Certified Archivist (through the Academy of Certified Archivists Exam) will help a job candidate land a job. Unfortunately, this

depends very much on who is doing the hiring. As any glance through the SAA job postings will verify, it may be helpful in some settings, but it will be irrelevant in others. I would venture that even in many situations where certification is preferred, the quality of your cover letter and vita (overall)—as well as your coursework and experience—will be more significant than your certification status. But certainly, if the positions you find most attractive seem frequently to list certification as a preference, it would make sense to add that credential.

I am also often asked whether experience, in the form of a practicum, internship, or volunteer work, is important. In general, I would say that, yes, other qualities being roughly equal, a candidate with such experience will appear stronger than one without. However, experience processing family papers will not be a great selling point when applying for a position in a corporate archives as a reference and outreach specialist (or vice versa). Having a variety of experience is likely to be most helpful, although

most search committees are reasonably realistic about how much experience they can expect for an entry-level position.

Additionally, many prospective employees want to know whether a strong background in electronic records, digitization, or Web 2.0 is the key to landing that first job. Alas, like so many things, it depends, particularly with regard to the job for which one is applying. If the repository is trying to process a ten-year backlog of analog collections and needs a new archival processor, advanced skills with born digital material is not going to be critical. On the other hand, of two otherwise equally qualified candidates, the one with Web 2.0 experience may have an advantage. Plus, digital competency may just be the ticket to your SECOND job, and it's never too early to begin thinking that far ahead.

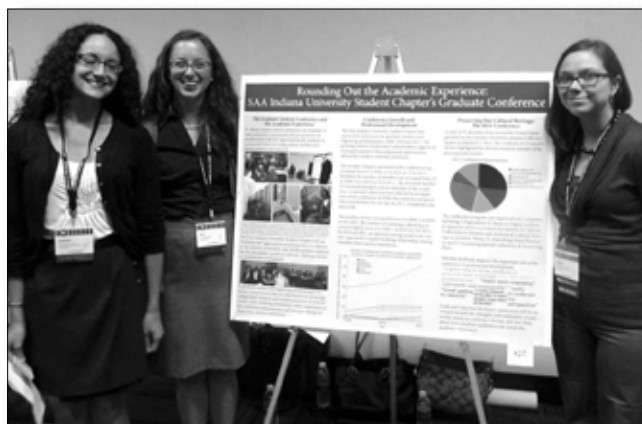
Indiana University Student SAA Members Blog Away Archives Month 2011

By Danielle Emerling, Indiana University—Bloomington School of Library and Information Science

To celebrate American Archives Month 2011, the Indiana University Society of American Archivists student chapter (SAA-SC) traveled to archival and historical institutions in southern Indiana and blogged about their Civil War collections. The purpose of the project was to bring the knowledge of these holdings to a broader audience through the use of the SAA-SC blog (<http://saaiu.wordpress.com/category/american-archives-month/>) and to encourage a greater appreciation of the materials held in these smaller institutions. In addition, the project provided students with experience in the areas of outreach and advocacy.

The first trip was to the John Hay Center in Salem, Indiana, where students blogged about records documenting Morgan's Raid, the only major Civil War action seen in the state. In the same trip, students visited the Depot Railroad Museum, which memorializes Salem's leading role in Indiana's railroad history, and is a replica of Salem's original train station, burned during Morgan's Raid. The following week, students made a trip to the Hanover College Archives Center in Hanover, Indiana, where they encountered a number of rare books, autograph books,

and enthralling stories in soldiers' letters to home. In their final trip, students discovered intimate historical artifacts, a certificate of service signed by Abraham Lincoln, and even a Union soldier's uniform.



Danielle Emerling (left), Amy Jankowski, and Heather Stone of Indiana University's SAA student chapter with their poster on August 26, 2011 at SAA.

UW–Madison’s SAA Student Chapter Archives Blog Makes an Impact in the Community

By Alex R. Champion, UW–Madison School of Library & Information Studies

For four years, the UW–Madison SAA-SC has conducted a blog for Archives Month. Through this blog, the group explored the Wisconsin Archives Month theme, “Born in Wisconsin.” For 2011, students wrote numerous posts and submitted 43 photos in October. The blog’s content was promoted through the social media sites, Facebook and Twitter, with specially-created accounts by the Chapter Secretary Cassie Warholm-Wohlenhaus. Her efforts and the self-promotion of every contributor netted 1,281 page views in October alone. Contributors to the concerted effort included Alex Champion, Katherine Stotis, Audra Hilse, Amy Unger, Laura Farley, Eric Willey, and Pete Shrake. Included in the blog were such topics as the first electric power plant in the world, and the exciting life of Army Nursing Corps enlistee Helen Bulovsky, as she

followed the famous 32nd “Red Arrow” Division in the American Expeditionary Force.

After becoming aware of the blog, a researcher in California consulted SAA-SC President Alex Champion about donating his collection of nineteenth-century class photos from the Whitewater Normal School, now the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater. The chapter collaborated with Ron Nortier of the Clinton (Wisconsin) Community Historical Society to coordinate their Archives Month activity with the housewarming of the Historical Society’s new permanent headquarters, located in an 1843 historic house. Clinton residents donated manuscripts and historic objects during the event, and the SAA-SC contributed oral histories and documented the event: <http://www.archivesmonth.blogspot.com>.

MAC Member Graduate Programs Represented at SAA Archives 360°

MAC-member graduate programs were well-represented during Archives 360°, the 75th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists held in Chicago on August 22–27, 2011.

Kaitlin Dunn, a May 2011 graduate of the UW–Madison School of Library and Information Studies, presented the poster, “Documenting the Ironworkers: The Creation and Preservation of Folklore Fieldwork.” Dunn’s poster presented the work of UW-Madison students in a Fall 2010 public folklore and presentation course, for which they gathered oral histories from modern-day ironworkers, developed a small oral history archives, and produced a

short film. Virginia Corvid of UW–Madison presented her poster entitled, “Integrated, High-Impact, Low-Input Strategies to Serve Casual and In-Depth Users.” Another UW-Madison student, Danielle Taylor, presented the poster, “Local Collections, Global Community: UW-Madison Archives Month Blog 2010.” Finally, Indiana University’s SAA student chapter presented a poster entitled “Rounding Out the Academic Experience,” based on the chapter’s graduate archives conference.

The highlight of the conference for MAC schools was the presentation to Lora J. Davis, a student at the UWM School of Information Studies, of the Theodore Calvin Pease Award by the distinguished retiring editor of the *American Archivist* Mary Jo Pugh. Also recognized at the ceremony was Eric Willey (in absentia), a student in the UW–Madison School of Library and Information Studies, who received the F. Gerald Ham Scholarship.



Kaitlin Dunn of University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies, with her poster at the SAA Graduate Student Poster Presentations.



Mary Jo Pugh presenting Lora J. Davis with the Theodore Calvin Pease Award.

People and Posts—David McCartney, Assistant Editor, University of Iowa

The MAC Membership Committee invites members to share positions, appointments, and honors in the "People and Posts" column. Please send items to David McCartney, University Archivist, University of Iowa Libraries, Department of Special Collections, Main Library, Iowa City, IA 52242-1420; 319-335-5921; david-mccartney@uiowa.edu.

Julia Blair has accepted the position of strategic initiatives librarian for the Michigan Technical University Van Pelt and Opie Library in Houghton, Mich. She had been employed as assistant archivist at the Michigan Tech Archives.

Ruth Bryan, who holds masters' degrees in public history from North Carolina State University and cultural anthropology from the New School for Social Research, is now the director of archives and university archivist in the Special Collections Division of the University of Kentucky Libraries.

Andrew McGraw, who holds a master of library and information science degree from the University of Kentucky and a certificate of advanced study in archives and records management from the University of Pittsburgh, has been hired as the assistant university archivist for the University of Kentucky.

Cate Putirskis has joined the La Crosse Public Library (WI) as its second professional archivist. She will help implement a content management strategy for archival collections, assist with cataloging and EAD production, increase the archives' presence in the city records program, and form a strategy and workflow to ingest born digital and E-records, as well as photographic materials.

Judi Quire joined the University of Kentucky Archives this fall as the presidential papers archivist.

Catherine Sering has begun a temporary position at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls University Archives and Area Research Center as

the assistant archivist. She is pursuing her master's degree in library and information science with an archives concentration at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Danielle Taylor received her M.A. in library and information studies from the University of Wisconsin–Madison earlier this year and is currently a project archivist at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

NEW MEMBERS

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MAC Newsletter

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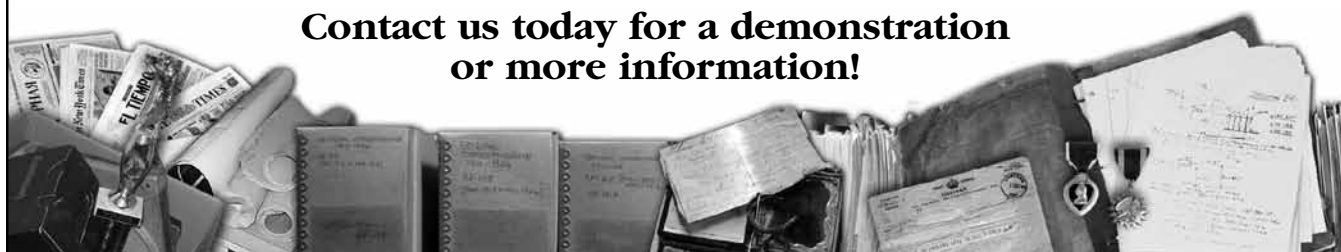
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Regionalia—Melissa Gottwald, Assistant Editor, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Please submit "Regionalia" items to Melissa Gottwald at gottwalm@erau.edu.

Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC)

The ARSC Technical Committee has released "A Study of Embedded Metadata Support in Audio Recording Software: Summary of Findings and Conclusions." The report addresses two primary questions: how well embedded metadata persists and maintains its integrity, and how well the metadata is handled during the process of creating a derivative file. See <http://www.arsc-audio.org/technical-committee.html>.

Building a National Archival Authorities Infrastructure

The University of Virginia Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (IATH) and the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science are pleased to announce that they have received the Institute for Museum and Library Services Award for "Building a National Archival Authorities Infrastructure." Daniel Pitti (IATH) is director and Katherine Wisser (Simmons College) is co-director of this two-year initiative. The Award aims to promulgate community adoption and use of Encoded Archival Context—Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families (EAC-CPF) by increasing awareness of EAC-CPF's benefits and developing the professional skills necessary to employ it. The Award also endeavors to lay the groundwork for establishing a National Archival Authorities Cooperative to enable the professional community to build collaboratively a historical resource to provide integrated access to and context for understanding the American record.

Heritage Preservation

The Connecting to Collections on-line community is an interactive resource to help smaller museums, libraries, archives, and historical societies locate reliable preservation resources and engage with each other and top professionals in the field. In addition to discussion forums and featured resources, the site regularly features opportunities to interact with experts through Webinars. Heritage Preservation moderates the site in cooperation with the American Association for State and Local History and with funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services: <http://www.connectingtocollections.org>.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC)

The MARAC spring meeting, "Faith and Frolic on the Jersey Cape," will take place on April 12–14 in Cape May, New Jersey: <http://www.marac.info>.

New England Archivists

The spring meeting will be held on March 23–24 at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. The theme, "DIY Archives," will focus on the practical application of archival techniques. Sessions will emphasize professional sharing of simple and easy ways to provide better access and establish sustained preservation techniques without a huge budget: <http://www.newenglandarchivists.org/meetings/meetings.html>.

Northeast Document Conservation Center

Upcoming topics in the Collections Care Webinar Series include security, dealing with mold outbreaks, the care and handling of paper-based materials and oversize artifacts, risk assessment and disaster planning, and the care and handling of multimedia collections. See <http://www.nedcc.org/education/training/calendar.php> for more information.

Northwest Archivists

A joint meeting with the Oregon Heritage Conference will take place on April 26–28 in Salem, Oregon. The conference theme is "Fertile Ground: Planting the Seeds for Restoration, Innovation and Collaboration." Using the rich farmlands and streams of the Willamette Valley as a backdrop, the conference will highlight multidisciplinary approaches that are strengthening and expanding the capacity of archives and heritage in the Northwest: <http://northwestarchivistsinc.wildapricot.org/>.

Society of California Archivists

The annual general meeting will be held April 26–28 at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel in Ventura, California. See <http://www.calarchivists.org> for more information.

Society of North Carolina Archivists

The Society's annual meeting will be held on March 28–30 at the University of North Carolina at Greens-

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boro. This year's theme is a play on words, "the 'state' of archives," and sessions will look at current issues in all spheres (local, state, and broader) of the archival field: <http://www.ncarchivists.org/>.

Southern Archives Conference (SAC)

The 2012 Conference will be hosted by the Society of Mississippi Archivists in Jackson, Mississippi on April 26–27. The SAC, which meets on a biennial basis, has the goal of fostering closer cooperation among archivists in the region and advancing the interests of the profession. See <http://msarchivists.org>.

Syracuse University Library

Lois Olcott Price's lecture, "Line, Shade and Shadow: Fabrication and Preservation of Architectural Drawings," presented as part of the Brodsky Series for the Advancement of Library Conservation, is now available on-line. Because architectural drawings are not created as an end in and of themselves, but rather, are used as graphic documents to construct a building, sell a project, or explore a design concept, the materials and techniques chosen by

the drafter are particular to the function of the drawings, as well as to the period in which they were created. The interpretation and preservation of architectural drawings depends upon an understanding of their functions in architectural practice, and on a working knowledge of drafting materials and techniques. This lecture traces the use of supports, media, and photo-reproductive processes to create architectural drawings from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries: http://library.syr.edu/about/departments/preservation/activities/series/Lois_Price.php.

Visual Resources Association

The 30th anniversary meeting will take place on April 18–21 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference theme is "Broadening Horizons," and the program will feature sessions and case studies on topics including new technologies; emerging professional roles; embedded metadata; digital asset management; digitizing originals; outreach; collaboration; and using video in educational, scholarly, and archival contexts: <http://www.vraweb.org/conferences/vra30/>.



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MAC offers advertisers easy and effective ways to market products, services, and announcements. These outlets include its newsletter, journal, annual meeting program, and Web site. The newsletter, journal, and annual meeting program reach more than 900 individual and institutional members in the Midwest and across the United States; more than 16,000 people visit the MAC Web site annually.

For more information concerning advertising with MAC, and exhibits and sponsorships during conferences, please contact MAC Vendor Coordinator Nicole Garrett, Albion College, Stockwell-Mudd Libraries, 602 E. Cass St., Albion, MI 49224, phone: 517-629-0487; E-mail: ngarrett@albion.edu, or visit MAC's Web site: <http://www.midwestarchives.org/>.

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